THE CHURCH OF SATAN

by

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Anton LaVey was born in Chicago of mixed Rumanian-German-gypsy parentage. His family moved to San Francisco a few years later. As a youngster, he was very talented musically, and by the time he was sixteen, he was playing second oboe in the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. In spite of his own accomplishments, his restlessness would not allow him to complete high school at this time. During his junior year, at the age of seventeen, he left home when he obtained a job working with the Clyde Beatty Circus as a cage boy. Within the first year, he had advanced to a position as an assistant lion trainer. The circus also used his musical talent as a calliope player.

Even this work, however, was not fully satisfying and the following year he left the circus and began work as a mind-reader's assistant with a carnival. It was during these days that LaVey insists he formed strong opinions of the Christian Church which influenced the direction of his life with regard to religion. He states:

> On Saturday night I would see men lusting after half-naked girls dancing at the carnival, and on Sunday morning when I was playing the organ for tent-show evangelists at the other end of the carnival lot, I would see these same men sitting in the pews with their wives

> and children, asking God to forgive them and purge them of carnal desires. And the next Saturday night they'd be back at the carnival or some other place of indulgence. I knew then that the Christian Church thrives on hypocrisy, and that man's carnal nature will out.[1]

At the same time that LaVey was learning the trade of the carnival magician, he was becoming increasingly interested in the occult. He began to study the world of the supernatural, witchcraft, ESP, and other related subjects.

Again he tired of this life and returned to San Francisco where he finished his schooling, and graduated from City College. With the dedication and purpose that seems quite normal, LaVey married and then obtained a job on the San Francisco Police Department as a photographer. He continued to work with the SFPD for three years. In this time he viewed the worst of the San Francisco criminal subculture in the routine of official investigations of crime in the city. At the end of three years he resigned and began working as a professional organist in San Francisco night clubs.

During the 1960's he and his wife initiated a home-study group of the occult. Certain friends who

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[1]Anton Szandor LaVey, The Satanic Bible (New York: Avon Books, 1969), p. 1.

were interested in the occult began studying with them. LaVey's personal study of Satanism and the occult took on more intense purpose as he methodically worked on a personal view of the subject.

FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH

Newspaper accounts of spectacular, criminal acts by both individuals and groups who were supposedly Satan worshippers became a matter of concern to LaVey and his friends. He insisted that true Satanists, as he envisioned them, would not commit such acts.

Convinced that someone must move to counteract these false impressions, Anton Szandor LaVey announced to the group gathered in his home on April 30, 1966 that he planned to organize a Church of Satan and assume office as its first high priest. With his head shaved after the tradition of the early executioneers, he was acclaimed by the group as their leader.

LaVey and other members of the group provided technical advice for the filming of Rosemary's Baby. Many feel that the showing of this film was the spark that ignited the current boom in the "occult craze".

As interest in the Church of Satan spread, new groups were started in other cities across the United States and in some foreign cities also. These local groups are called "grottoes".

Included in organization of the Church of Satan was a Council of Nine which is the governing body of the

Church. This group conferred the Doctorate of Satanic Theology, Order of the Trapezoid, upon its high priest Anton Szandor LaVey.

When the membership reached the ten thousand mark, the figures were no longer released. Officials state that the membership continues to grow.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE CHURCH

While frequently alluding to traditional church doctrines and terms throughout the Satanic Bible, the author is quick to point out that the Satanist rejects the doctrinal teachings and dogmas of the Christian Church. An assumption which I had made prior to any investigation was that the Church of Satan was a group that acknowledged Satan as the deity they worshipped, and that their intent was to oppose the program of the Christian Church. Such is not the case, according to their own literature.

> Satanism has been frequently misrepresented as 'devil worship' when, in fact, it constitutes a clear rejection of all forms of worship as a desirable component of the personality. It is not so much an anti-religion--a simple rebuttal of any one belief--as it is an unreligion, an uncompromising dismissal of all insubstantial mysticism. As such it represents a far more serious threat to organized theologies than do the archaic customs of the old demonologies...Satanism is more accurately identified as a disposition than as a religion.[2]

A second major philosophical attitude of the group has to do with their desire to escape the hypocrisy they feel prevails within the Christian Church. Dr. LaVey repeatedly refers to the hypocrisy which he has observed among members of the Christian Church. He contends that

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[2]The Satanic Bible, p. 14.

the church has declared many of the natural desires (lusts) of man as sinful; therefore church members have been instructed to abstain from these activities. When some members yield to these temptations in order to satisfy these desires, then to the Satanist these members become hypocrites. The Satanist will not allow hypocrisy. Mr. Michael A. Aquino says in his introduction to the Satanic Bible, "inexperience is not dishonored, but pretentiousness, hypocrisy, and pompensity are treated with the scorn that they deserve."[3]

Satanists believe that we as human beings are little more than domesticated animals as LaVey asks, "...are we not all predatory animals by instinct?"[4] And in speaking of love he again insinuates by asking, "...is not 'lust and carnal desire' a more truthful term to describe love when applied to the continuance of the race?"[5] that human beings are driven by animalistic desires.

Insisting that the church has inhibited and restrained mormal and natural desires of man, LaVey attacks this as the cause for the hypocrisy. A better

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[3]TSB, p. 15. [4]TSB, p. 33. [5]TSB, p. 33.

alternate philosophy for the Satanist is to follow one's natural desires without feeling any guilt about it.

> For two thousand years man has done penance for something he never should have had to feel guilt about in the first place. We are tired of denying ourselves the pleasures of life which we deserve. Today, as always, man needs to enjoy himself here and now, instead of waiting for his rewards in heaven. So, why not have a religion based on indulgence? Certainly it is consistent with the nature of the beast.[6]

The Christian Church is not the only group to be charged as hypocritical. Even some witchcraft groups are criticized for, "...anyone who pretends to be interested in magic or the occult for reasons other than gaining personal power is the worst kind of hypocrite."[7]

A third major philosophy of the Church of Satan might be described as Darwinian in nature. A great deal of attention is focused on the truth that the strong will triumph over the weak. LaVey encourages Satanists to be certain of their strengths in order to be victorious! Yet Satanists are to display love for others who deserve love. At the same time they are quick to hate enemies whom they feel deserve their hatred.

> Satanism represents a form of controlled selfishness. This does not mean that you never do anything for anyone else. If you do something to make someone for whom you care happy, his happiness will

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[6]TSB, p. 54. [7]TSB, p. 51.

give you a sense of gratification.

Satanism advocates practicing a modified form of the Golden Rule. Our interpretation of this rule is 'Do unto others as they do unto you'; because if you 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' and they, in turn, treat you badly, it goes against human nature to continue to treat them with consideration. You should do unto others as you would have them do unto you, but if your courtesy is not returned, they should be treated with the wrath they deserve.[8]

LaVey clarifies this principle of Satanism by explaining that "to love another is to be at his mercy." "...if I 'love' them does that not place me at their mercy?"[9] The true Satanist must feel free to act out his honest feelings about others. To be true to one's self is to "...hate your enemies with a whole heart, and if a man smite you on one check, SMASH him on the other!"[10]

There are other suggestions in the Satanic Bible concerning one's interpersonal relationships with other individuals. Upon encountering a dependent-type person (called the Psychic Vampire) the Satanist is advised to follow specific principles in order to cope with such situations.

Satanism represents responsibility to the responsible instead of concern for psychic vampires. Psychic vampires are individuals who drain others of their vital energy...is there a person you often

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[8]TSB, p. 51. [9]TSB, p. 32. [10]TSB, p. 33.

> call or visit, even though you really don't want to, because you know you will feel guilty if you don't? Or, do you find yourself constantly doing favors for one who doesn't come forward and ask, but hints? Often the psychic vampire will use reverse psychology saying, 'Oh, I couldn't ask you to do that'... and you in turn, insist upon doing it...the psychic vampire is allowed to exist because he cleverly chooses conscientious, responsible people for his victims--people with great dedication to their 'moral obligations'...the traditional way to banish a demon or elemental is to recognize it for what it is, and exorcise it. Recognition of these modern-day demons and their methods is the only antidote for their devastating hold over you...And if you are a psychic vampire--take heed! Beware of the Satanist--he is ready and willing to gleefully drive the proverbial stake through your heart![11]

In a positive, helpful manner, Dr. LaVey suggests what is probably the most constructive item in his book when he advises his followers that "...to acquire and keep friends, one must be willing to give of himself..."[12]

And finally, the foundational philosophy of the entire movement can be described as the practice of fully satisfying human desires when they arise within oneself. Regardless of what that desire may be, restraints or inhibitions must not prevent these lusts from being satisfied!

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[11] TSB, pp. 75-76, 80. [12] TSB, p. 78.

DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH

Of primary importance in determing the official statement of the Church of Satan is a list of the "Nine Satanic Statements."[13]

> 1 Satan represents indulgence, instead of abstinence!
> 2 Satan represents vital existence, instead of spiritual pipe dreams!
> 3 Satan represents undefiled wisdom, instead of hypocritical self-deceit!
> 4 Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it, instead of love wasted on ingrates!
> 5 Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek!
> 6 Satan represents responsibility to the responsible, instead of concern for psychic vampires!
> 7 Satan represents man as just another animal, sometimes better, more often worse than those that walk on all-fours, who, because of his 'divine spiritual and intellectual development,' has become the most vicious animal of all!
> 8 Satan represents all of the so-called sins, as they all lead to physical, mental, or emotional gratification!
> 9 Satan has been the best friend the church has ever had, as he has kept it in business all these years!

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD. Satanists reject the notion that they do not believe in God. Mr. Michael A. Aquino states that "God is a personalization of the recognized mathematical and mechanical order prevailing throughout the known universe."[14]

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[13]TSB, p. 25. [14]Michael A. Aquino, personal letter.

> ...the Satanist simply accepts the definition which suits him best. Man has always created his gods, rather than his gods creating him. God is, to some, benign--to others terrifying. To the Satanist 'God'--by whatever name he is called, or by no name at all--is seen as the balancing factor in nature, and not as being concerned with suffering.[15]

In another reference to God, Dr. LaVey asks, "...why not really be honest and if you are going to create a god in your image, why not create the god as yourself?"[16]

Perhaps the closing statement of the introduction to the Satanic Bible sets forth the Satanists' position best when he says, "The Satanic Bible finally articulates what man has instinctively dreaded to proclaim: that he himself is potentially divine."[17]

THE DOCTRINE OF SIN. While the Bible speaks of sin in specific language, it is somewhat more difficult to learn what the Satanist means by "original sin" as mentioned on page forty-seven. In a rather broad discussion of the Satanists' views of the seven deadly sins of the Christian Church, Dr. LaVey discusses the sin of slothfulness and connects it with "lust" and the "original sin".

> Being reluctant to get up in the morning is to be guilty of sloth, and if you lie in bed long enough you may find yourself committing yet another sin--lust. To have the faintest stirring of sexual desire is to be guilty of lust. In order to insure the propagation of

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[15]TSB, p. 40. [16]TSB, p. 96. [17]TSB, p. 18.

> humanity, nature made lust the second most powerful instinct, the first being self-preservation. Realizing this, the Christian Church made fornication the "Original Sin." In this way, they made sure no one would escape sin. Your very state of being is as a result of sin--the original sin![18]

While Satanists acknowledge the fact that they make mistakes, there is no act of forgiveness sought or any act of confession considered.

> Just as the Satanist does not pray to God for assistance, he does not pray for forgiveness for his wrong doings...The Satanist knows that if praying does no good, confessing to another human being, like himself, accomplishes even less--and is, furthermore, degrading. When a Satanist commits a wrong, he realizes that it is natural to make a mistake--and if he is truly sorry about what he has done, he will learn from it and take care not to do the same thing again.[19]

THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN. "Satanism is a religion of the flesh, the mundane, the carnal--all of which are ruled by Satan, the personification of the Left Hand Path,"[20] according to Dr. LaVey.

In more specific language, Dr. LaVey takes great care to provide a complete definition in the Satanic Bible of Satan.

> Most Satanists do not accept Satan as an anthropomorphic being with cloven hooves, a barbed tail, and horns. He merely represents a force of nature--the powers of darkness which have been named just that because no religion has taken these forces out of the darkness. Nor has science been able to supply technical terminology to this force. It is an untapped reservoir that few can make use of because they lack the ability to use a tool without having to first break down and label all the parts which

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[18]TSB, p. 47. [19]TSB, p. 41. [20]TSB, p. 52.

make it run. It is this incessant need to analyze which prohibits most people from taking advantage of this many faceted key to the unknown which the Satanist chooses to call "Satan".

Satan, as a god, demi-god, personal saviour, or whatever you wish to call him, was invented by the formulators of every religion on the face of the earth for only one purpose--to preside over man's so-called wicked activities and situations here on earth. Consequently, anything resulting in physical or mental gratification was defined as "evil"--thus assuring a life-time of unwarranted guilt for everyone![21]

THE DOCTRINE OF SEX. According to the Satanic Bible, Satanists' activities are not given to that type of sexual freedom which is sometimes considered a part of other occult groups.

Satanism does advocate sexual freedom, but only in the true sense of the word...freedom to either be faithful to one person or to indulge your sexual desires with as many others as you feel is necessary to satisfy your particular needs.

Satanism does not encourage orgiastic activity or extra marital affairs for those to whom they do not come naturally.

Satanism condones any type of sexual activity which properly satisfies your individual desires--be it heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or even asexual, if you choose. Satanism also sanctions any fetish or deviation which will enhance your sex-life, so long as it involves no one who does not wish to be involved.

Satanism encourages any form of sexual expression you may desire, so long as it hurts no one else. This statement must be qualified, to avoid misinterpretation. By not hurting another, this does not include the unintentional hurt felt by those who might not agree with your views on sex, because of their anxieties regarding sexual morality. Naturally, you should avoid offending others who mean

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[21]TSB, p. 62.

> a lot to you, such as prudish friends and relatives. However, if you earnestly endeavor to escape hurting them, and despite your efforts they accidentally find out, you cannot be held responsible, and therefore should feel no guilt as a result of either your sexual convictions, or their being hurt because of these convictions.
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> ...therefore, Satanism does not advocate rape, child molesting, sexual defilement of animals or any other form of sexual activity which entails the participation of those who are unwilling or whose innocence or naivete would allow them to be intimidated or misguided into doing something against their wishes.[22]

THE DOCTRINE OF SACRIFICE IN RITUALS. The notoriety in recent years by some groups who claimed to be serving or worshipping 'Satan' has prompted the Church of Satan to counter these boasts by making certain that everyone understand it does not practice or believe in human sacrifice, in the literal sense.

> The use of a human sacrifice in a Satanic ritual does not imply that the sacrifice is slaughtered 'to appease the gods.' Symbolically, the victim is destroyed through the working of a hex or curse... the fact of the matter is that if the 'magician' is worthy of his name, he will be uninhibited enough to release the necessary force from his own body, instead of from an unwilling and undeserving victim! Contrary to all established magical theory, the release of this force is NOT effected in the actual spilling of blood, but in the death throes of the living creature![23]

To their credit, Dr. LaVey points out that they would not condone the slaughtering of any animal for the purpose of using it as a sacrifice. "Under NO circumstances would a Satanist sacrifice any animal or baby!"[24]

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[22]TSB, pp. 66-70. [23]TSB, pp. 87-88. [24]TSB, p. 89.

Perhaps the allusion to the possible sacrifice of a baby is rather startling, until one remembers that historically, certain demonologists and devil worshippers were reported to have sacrificed aborted infants in the "Black Mass".[25]

> The usual assumption is that the Satanic ceremony or service is always called a black mass. A black mass is not the magical ceremony practiced by Satanists. The Satanist would only employ the use of a black mass as a form of psychodrama. Furthermore, a black mass does not necessarily imply that the performers of such are Satanists.[26]

THE DOCTRINE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH. As in many other areas, there are no direct, affirmative statements which define what the Satanists actually believe in this matter. It is clear that the Christian concept of life after death is rejected. Those Oriental and Eastern mystical religions that believe in reincarnation are dismissed as employing these as "...a beautiful fantasy world in which a person can find the proper avenue of ego-expression, but at the same time claim to have dissolved his ego."[27]

In describing the attitude of the Satanist, Dr. LaVey contends that Satanists are different from those who depend on religion, in that Satanists live life to its fullest on this earth. "...there is a great dread attached to dying. This is as it should be. It is this

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[25]Anton Szandor LaVey, The Satanic Rituals (New York: Avon Books, 1972), pp. 32-33.

[26]TSB, p. 100. [27]TSB, p. 93.

lust for life which will allow the vital person to live on after the inevitable death of his fleshly shell."[28] In the same chapter he repeats,

> If a person has been vital throughout his life and has fought to the end for his earthly existence, it is this ego which will refuse to die, even after the expiration of the flesh which housed it.[29]

While the thought of one's ego continuing to live on earth following physical death sounds attractive to anyone who has enjoyed living, the author simply fails to even suggest how this will happen. There is no hint for the reader to understand exactly what this "life" which is called "life after death through the fulfillment of the ego"[30] actually means. This writer can simply state that the Satanists have rejected all religious explanations of life after death without defining or detailing what they believe. At best, one can say that the Satanist who has attempted to fully gratify his ego while on earth can look forward to an eternal 'ego' which will exist in some form, in some way, and in some place upon earth after physical death. As Dr. LaVey explains, the ego will continue to live much like

> ...the small child who refuses to go to bed when there is something exciting going on, and when once put to bed, will sneak down the stairs to peek through the curtain and watch. It is this child-like vitality that will allow the Satanist to peek through the

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[28]TSB, p. 92. [29]TSB, p. 94. [30]TSB, p. 91.

curtain of darkness and death and remain earth-bound.[31]

How this is to be accomplished, or what the effect on those living is not discussed. In fact, the chapter concludes with general statements about suicide and the stupidity of religious martyrdom.

THE DOCTRINE OF HEAVEN AND HELL. One learns more easily the teaching of the Church of Satan on this subject as specific reference is made by Dr. LaVey in "The Book of Satan, IV" when he writes,

> There is no heaven of glory bright, and no hell where sinners roast. Here and now is our day of torment! Here and now is our day of joy! Here and now is our opportunity![32]

Additional comments about heaven and hell would indicate that Satanists refuse to accept life after death as taught by the Church with regard to heaven and hell. Such comments as, "...the false doctrine of Hell and the Devil has allowed the Protestant and Catholic Churches to flourish far too long."[33]

In attempting to counter certain mistaken concepts of Satanism which are generally accepted by the public, Dr. LaVey rejects heaven and hell by saying,

> To become a Satanist, it is unnecessary to sell your soul to the Devil or make a pact with Satan. This threat was devised by Christianity to terrorize people so they would not stray from the fold. With

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[31]TSB, p. 94. [32]TSB, p. 33. [33]TSB, p. 55.

> scolding fingers and trembling voices, they taught their followers that if they gave in to the temptations of Satan, and lived their lives according to their natural predilections, they would have to pay for their sinful pleasures by giving their souls to Satan and suffering in Hell for all eternity. People were led to believe that a pure soul was a passport to everlasting life.[34]

It is apparent, then, in the light of the preceding, that Satanists believe the only 'glory' of heaven or 'torment' of hell will be experienced here on this earth.

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[34]TSB, p. 61.

MEMBERSHIP, PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH

The Church of Satan is organized, incorporated, and protected by California State Law as a recognized religious organization. The Internal Revenue Service, however, does not list them as a religious organization for which contributions can be deducted on one's Federal Income Tax Return.[35]

The only reference to membership in the Church of Satan is made in the Satanic Bible and states that "...there are no Satanic missionaries, and to affiliate one must meet exacting standards."[36] A veiled reference to the matter is contained in the following:

> An important point to remember in the practice of any magic ritual or ceremony is: if you depend upon the activities within the chamber to provide or sustain a social climate, the ensuing energy--conscious or otherwise--directed toward these ends will negate any results you wish to obtain through the ritual! The line is fine between the desirability for close rapport between participants, and one's need per se for close rapport. The ritual will suffer if there is a single person in the chamber who drains the substance from it by his ulterior motives. Hence it is better to have three participants who are 'with it' than twenty who are and three who are not. The most effective rituals are often the most solitary. This is why it is preposterous to attempt a ritual or ceremony with outsiders present who happen to be 'sincerely interested' or 'want to find out more about it' or

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[35]District Office of the IRS: Manhatten, New York. Telephone conversation of April 12, 1973.

[36]TSB, p. 15

'want to see what it's like.'

A philosophical commitment is a prerequisite for acceptance into ritualistic activities, and this serves as a rudimentary screening process for organized Satanism. Consequently, a degree of compatibility--necessary to a successful working--exists within the chamber. Of course, anyone can say, 'I believe,' simply to gain access. It will be up to the discerning magician to determine actual sincerity. Because Lesser Magic is everyday magic, a finely attuned sense of discrimination is essential for all accomplishment. In addition, one of the most important 'commandments' of Satanism is: Satanism demands study--not worship![37]

To become a member of the Church of Satan, "... applicants complete a comprehensive questionnaire, which is reviewed by the central grotto on an individual-case basis."[38]

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH. The ruling body of the Church of Satan is the Council of Nine which is headed by LaVey. These members make appointments to the various ranks within the organization of the Church and generally control the direction of the organization.

There are five degrees of membership in the Church of Satan. They are:

I° - Satanist (registered member of the Church)
II° - Warlock (male) / Witch (female)
III° - Priest or Priestess of Mendes
IV° - Magister (male) / Magistra (female)
V° - Magus (held by Dr. LaVey)

The first two degrees encompass the lay membership. The last three delineate the hierarchy of the Church--the Order of the Trapezoid. Admission to the Order involves considerations as serious as those pertaining to clerical orders in other religious disciplines. The

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[37]The Satanic Rituals, p. 19.

[38]Michael A. Aquino, personal letter.

> style of life of candidates for the Priesthood is among such considerations, but it is by no means accorded inappropriate weight. Note: The title of Apprentice is used for the I° under ceremonial circumstances.[39]

It appears that Anton LaVey is indeed the real leader of the group, literally exercising dictatorial powers with regard to the movement.

MEMBERS AND MILITARY SERVICE. Mr. Michael A. Aquino has written the following which might be considered an example of what a Church official would say to a member asking him for advice. Mr. Aquino served in the Army in a combat branch while holding a Regular Commission. He was at the same time a Priest of the Church of Satan (III°) and his comments in this area are both based on his experience in the military and as an official of the Church:

> As a citizen of the United States, you have a social obligation to serve in the military if called upon to do so. Insofar as your official responsibilities are concerned, your conscience must become that of your commander, and ultimately that of the President. Your Satanic interests and activities must be kept separate and distinct from those of the military. Where the two come in conflict, your responsibility as a soldier must take immediate priority--particularly since the safety of others besides yourself may be involved. If you cannot reconcile your personal philosophy with the mental discipline required of a soldier, then you should resign from the service as soon as you are legally able to do so.
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> The Church of Satan will not endorse a request for conscientious objector status, inasmuch as we feel that all true philosophers object to war. To honor one person's arrogance over another's pragmatism would be inconsistent with the ethics upon

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[39]Michael A. Aquino, personal letter.

> which the Church was founded. As for draft evasion, we believe that a person who rejects the more distasteful responsibilities of his citizenship has no right to its benefits. A social contract must be mutually binding or it does not exist.

Other comments by Mr. Aquino indicate that the Church of Satan rejects any idea of a Corps of Chaplains within the military. Based on their understanding of the Judaic/Christian approach, the very existence of military chaplains is inconsistent with the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

APPENDIX

RITUALS OF THE CHURCH

The formal rites of the Church of Satan have been provided in the Satanic Bible, with a companion volume, the Satanic Rituals, adding several more "productions" as Dr. LaVey refers to them.[40] "Ritual and fantasy play a very real part in the activities of the Satanic Church..."[41] according to Mr. Michael A. Aquino. It is quite difficult for one to understand the rituals of the church in an objective manner, however, for "...the essence of Satanic ritual, and Satanism itself, if taken up out of logic rather than desperation, is to objectively enter into a subjective state."[42]

To assist those who are leading these rituals it is important to have the essential properties, "...as ritual magic is dependent upon emotional intensity for success, all manner of emotion producing devices must be employed in its practice."[43]

There are three types of rituals.

> Each of these correspond to a basic human emotion. The first of these we shall call a sex ritual. A sex ritual is what is commonly known

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[40] TSR, p. 17. [41] TSB, p. 14.

[42] TSR, p. 15. [43] Ibid.

> as a love charm or spell. The purpose in performing such a ritual is to create desire on the part of the person whom you desire, or to summon a sex partner to fulfill your desires.
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> The second type of ritual is of a compassionate nature. The compassion, or sentiment ritual is performed for the purpose of helping others, or helping oneself.
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> The third motivating force is that of destruction. This is a ceremony used for anger, annoyance, disdain, contempt, or just plain hate. It is known as a hex, curse, or destroying agent.[44]

For the Satanist to be considered a successful participant in the rituals of the church, he must be fully aware of the magical qualities which are made prerequisites for the rituals. Dr. LaVey has even gone so far in his Satanic Bible as to provide a six-point check list for the leader to observe before beginning the ritual.

Having made the proper provisions for the room, the participants, costumes, materials, congregations, and devices that are needed, the person who is to perform the ritual then embarks upon the thirteen step ritual which is carefully explained in "The Book of Belial" of the Satanic Bible.[45]

During the early part of the service, an "Invocation to Satan" and "Infernal Names" are read aloud by the priest. Later in the ritual, at Step '9', the "...priest reads aloud appropriate invocation for respective ceremony: Lust, Compassion, or Destruction."[46]

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[44]TSB, pp. 114-115. [45]Ibid., p. 131. [46]Ibid.

Devices which are to be used in the Satanic Rituals are as follow:

CLOTHING. Black is chosen for the attire in the ritual chamber because it is symbolic of the Powers of Darkness. Sexually appealing clothing is worn by women for the purpose of stimulating the emotions of the male participants, and thereby intensifying the outpouring of adrenal or bio-electrical energy which will insure a more powerful working.[47]

THE ALTAR. "Satanism is a religion of the flesh, rather than of the spirit; therefore, an altar of flesh is used in Satanic ceremonies."[48] Where it is not possible or practical to use a nude woman for the altar, it is acceptable for her to be clothed or at least partially covered.

SYMBOL OF BAPHOMET. An intricate part of the chamber where the ritual is to be held is the large symbol that is basic to Satanism. The Baphomet is a pentagram that is inverted "...to perfectly accommodate the head of the goat--its horns, representing duality, thrust upwards in defiance; the other three points inverted, or the trinity denied."[49] It is placed on the wall above the altar.

CANDLES. "Only black and white candles are to be used in Satanic ritual. Never use more than one white candle; but as many black candles as are required to illuminate the ritual chamber may be used."[50]

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[47]TSB, p. 135. [48]Ibid. [49]Ibid., p. 136. [50]Ibid.

BELL. Should have a loud and penetrating sound!
CHALICE. It is preferable to have one made of silver, but Satanists are strictly forbidden to use one that is gold--for gold has been associated with heaven too much!
ELIXIR. The Satanist uses liquor to stimulate his emotions for the ritual, according to the Satanic Bible. "The Elixir of Life is to be drunk from the Chalice of Ecstasy, as indicated above, immediately following the Invocation to Satan."[51]
SWORD. Suggesting the symbol of aggressive force, the sword is used several times throughout the ritual. If a sword is not available or practical, then other devices such as a knife, cane, or staff may be used.
PHALLUS. Suggesting that Christians, and Catholics in particular, have taken the idea of fertility which the phallus represents and have misappropriated it to mean basically the same in the use of a 'holy water sprinkler'[52] Dr. LaVey continues to demonstrate his unique, blasphemous imagination. Although not a requirement for all Satanic rituals, Step '8' of the Satanic Ritual is a "...benediction with the phallus (if one is used)."[53] Suitable symbols may be substituted, but in rituals where the phallus is used the instructions are quite explicit. "The phallus is held in both hands of one of the priest's

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[51]TSB, p. 138. [52]TSB, p. 139. [53]TSB, p. 131.

assistants, and methodically shaken twice towards each cardinal point of the compass, for the benediction of the house."[54]

GONG. Its purpose in the ritual is to call upon the forces of Darkness.

PARCHMENT. "The parchment is the means by which the written message or request can be consumed by the candle flame and sent out into the ether."[55]

The "productions"[56] described by Dr. LaVey in the Satanic Rituals, include two from France, two from Germany, one from Russia, one from the ancient empire of Yezidi, and four from the United States. Of the four from the United States, two are the Satanic baptisms.

Even though Dr. LaVey insists that sexual activity is not the most important factor of the Satanic religion,[57] his preferred form of Satanic rituals suggest that carnality is the central theme! By his own admission he states that the goal of experiencing a "...more powerful working"[58] in the ritual is achieved by stimulating the emotions of the male participants through the wearing of sexually appealing clothing by the women. If any consistency can be found, one could assume that the more stimulating these activities could be, the more powerful the

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[54]TSB, p. 139. [55]TSB, pp. 139-140. [56]TSR, p. 17.
[57]TSB, p. 66. [58]TSB, p. 135.

results. Whether the actual, literal devices are used in the majority of their rituals or whether substitutes are used one cannot be sure. Throughout his writings, Dr. LaVey has provided some substitute for each of the items or acts which could be questioned on the basis of our current normative standards. Yet, this writer doubts that substitutes are regularly accepted by the participants.

CRITIQUE OF THE SATANIC BIBLE

Without spending an inordinate amount of time or space in examining the text of the Satanic Bible, I do want to discuss three general impressions which have resulted from my study of the book.

WRITING STYLE. The text of the book does not represent that level of competency that one would expect. It is best described as an acceptable level of colloquialism and common cliches.

Typical of such examples is one found on page twenty-one, "...been written down"; on page twenty-nine, "...centuries of shouting down..."; and on page forty-five, "...hates himself to death...".

While acceptable for certain types of literature, it is rather astonishing to believe that this reflects the best, official, authoritative literature of the Church of Satan!

CREDIBILITY OF TEXT. By the time the reader has completed the introduction, he is convinced that Dr. LaVey's approach to the subject will be quite different. There are suggestions in the beginning that the author is not concerned with the "lies" and "misrepresentations" of the Christian Church and therefore is about to offer a better alternative. How interesting, though, to find that throughout the entire

text there are repeated references made to Christianity.

The gravest problem, however, arises in the area of theology on page forty-seven where Dr. LaVey blatantly misrepresents the Church's historic position! The passage reads,

> In order to insure the propagation of humanity, nature made lust the second most powerful instinct, the first being self-preservation. Realizing this, the Christian Church made fornication the 'Original Sin.' In this way they made sure no one would escape sin. Your very state of being is as a result of sin--the Original sin!

Neither Roman Catholic theology nor Protestant theology teaches this! The 'Original Sin' was a sin of disobedience and willful defiance. It may sound enlightening to those who delight in discrediting the Christian Church, but it destroys any amount of credibility that the author may have had prior to such baseless assumptions. There are other examples throughout the book which the reader will find.

ORIGINALITY OF TEXT. Of general concern to writers is the need to be fresh and original in their work. A book with the rather shocking title of The Satanic Bible elicited rather strange assumptions on my own part about what the text would have to say. With my background of studies on the subject of demons and Satan, I was interested to learn what was contained in this new book.

Upon realizing that the major thrust of the book

results from the Biblical (Christian) views of Satan, I felt the frustration of one who reads a novel to find that the same general story had been published some time ago--yet written far better! If all references in the Satanic Bible to the Christian views were removed, plus other sections that are based largely upon other writings, the text would not satisfy the basic needs for which it was written. There is a desperate lack of original thinking in the book.

For example, on page thirty, we read "...TRUE prince of evil--the king of the slaves!" which reminds one of Matthew 27:37, "...this is Jesus the King of the Jews." Again on page thirty we read, "I blast out the ghastly contents of philosophically whited sepulchers and laugh with sardonic wrath!" which reminds one of Matthew 23:27, "...for ye are like unto whited sepulchres...".

In examining these similarities I found over twenty such phrases that are apparently based on references from the Bible. There is indeed very little left that can be described or claimed as original in our time. Yet how ironic that one who professes to despise and reject the Christian Church, seems to be guilty of depending upon it and its literature as a basis for his own thinking and writing!

WRITER'S CONCLUSIONS

It is my personal belief that the Church of Satan does not seek to exist as a church or religious body for the purpose of worshipping an identifiable deity, or for the humane reason of serving their fellow men. Instead, their principle goal for such an organization is to provide some shelter among a restricting society wherein they can pursue their individual, carnal lusts. With this form of protection which resulted from the recognition of their 'church' in the State of California, there is wider acceptance of the group and probably less threat or question by outsiders.

Based on my own position as a minister of the Gospel, I cannot endorse or condone the principles or activities of the Church of Satan. While there are some ideas or interests that are acceptable and positive, to accept their foundational position is not possible for me.

There will be many, both in the civilian and in the military communities, that will be attracted to the Church of Satan and other occult groups. I am fully aware that many will reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ which I represent. Yet, the fact that many will reject what I believe is true and accept that which I believe to

be false cannot be the basis for rethinking or accommodating myself and my convictions.

Were I faced with the responsibility of either approving or disapproving their request for the use of Army facilities for the conduct of their rituals and ceremonies I would disapprove such a request for the following reasons:

1. There is reasonable doubt as to whether they constitute a religious group, formed for the purpose of worship as commonly recognized by our American heritage.

2. A literal application of their teachings, carried to its fullest extent, would present serious problems within the military community with regard to interpersonal relationships. I refer to their insistence on the need to express negative feelings without normal restraints. To 'SMASH one on the other cheek', or to retaliate when one feels wronged by another. Within any regimented society, superiors will inevitably incur negative feelings on the part of subordinates. Faced with these realities, a true Satanist would need to eventually respond on the basis of his hatred without the inhibitions that our society recognizes as valuable and necessary for specific occasions.

3. Certain rituals and ceremonies in their meetings would introduce undesirable conflicts with other religious groups that would be unacceptable, if practiced in the

same manner that they have been conducted in the past. By way of illustration, I refer specifically to the ritual of the 'Black Mass'. For Catholic priests to learn that consecrated hosts had been stolen for a Satanic Ritual would produce irreconcilable tensions within the military religious community.

4. The practice of nudity in their rituals, however secreted, would be offensive to many, and unacceptable to civil laws which now exist in many places.

5. The rituals and basic orientation of the group is strictly critical and blasphemous in nature with regard to most other religious groups. This position and practice runs counter to current policies and guidelines for religious coverage within the United States Army as enunciated by the Department of Army through the Office of the Chief of Chaplains.

CECIL D. LEWIS
Chaplain (CPT), USA
5-16-C22-73-1
16 April 1973

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Back to the Bible Publishers
P.O. Box 233
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

Eternity Book Service
1716 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Faith and Life Publications
632 N. Prosperity Lane
Andover, Kansas 67002

Kregel Publications
P.O. Box 2607
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501

Logos International
185 North Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

March 30, VIII

Chaplain (Captain) Cecil D. Lewis
United States Army Chaplain School #C-22
Fort Hamilton, New York 11252

Dear Chaplain Lewis:

Thank you for your recent letters and the copy of your research paper on the Church of Satan. I am returning the manuscript to you under separate cover.

On the whole I consider it to be one of the most thorough, objective, and perceptive analyses of Satanism yet advanced by a professional from another religious persuasion. Such comments as I have are noted on the margins.

The only passage I take serious exception to in its present form is noted on page #11, where you say that Dr. LaVey's "logic is interesting if not sound!" It is your right to make such an evaluation, of course, but in such case it is only fair for you to state just why the logic is unsound. Otherwise it is propaganda, not criticism. And while propaganda may be acceptable on the pulpit, I question its place in a research paper.

Other than the aforementioned passage, we have no objection to the paper - complete with the Satanic Bible & Satanic Rituals quotations - being published in its present form. My other comments are intended for your own information. There are two points, however, to which you might care to give particular consideration. First, Anton Szandor LaVey holds the Doctorate of Satanic Theology conferred by the Council of Nine, Order of the Trapezoid. If you would refer to him as "Dr." rather than as "Mr." LaVey, we would sincerely appreciate it.

Secondly, there are two items which, while reported directly, are factually misleading. The first is on page #28, where Dr. Starkes includes all those silly oaths in our membership requirements. There is no oath connected with membership in the Church of Satan. There is an oath contained in the Satanic baptism ceremony [which you may read for yourself], but completion of this rite is neither required nor even expected of our members.

[As to where Dr. Starkes may have received his information, I haven't the slightest idea! Home Missions magazine did an article on us about one

year ago, so he should have known better.]

The second item which is somewhat erroneous is the Time quotation beginning on page #28. I myself explained our degree system and standards to Time's Religion Editor, and I am at a loss to say how he made such a mess out of it. Our members do not "jockey for upward mobility" via our degrees, nor are our Priests and Priestesses selected as carelessly as the passage implies.

There are five degrees of membership in the Church of Satan. They are:

I° - Satanist (registered member of the Church)
II° - Warlock (male)/Witch (female)
III° - Priest or Priestess of Mendes
IV° - Magister (male)/Magistra (female)
V° - Magus

The first two degrees encompass our lay membership. The last three delineate the hierarchy of the Church - the Order of the Trapezoid. Admission to the Order involves considerations as serious as those pertaining to clerical orders in other religious disciplines. The style of life of candidates for the Priesthood is among such considerations, but it is by no means accorded inappropriate weight. Note: The title of Apprentice is used for the I° under ceremonial circumstances.

Before closing I should like to comment upon our official position with regard to the military. I imagine that this should be of particular interest to the Chaplain School. During my own active duty with the Army I held both a Regular commission in a combat branch and the III° in the Church of Satan. During that time I was asked by the Church to ascertain whether it should seek representation in the Corps of Chaplains. After reviewing the pertinent regulations, I submitted a negative recommendation. It was based upon two general conclusions:

(1) De Facto the military chaplain's role must be the moral support of the commander's military decisions as they affect the personalities of the soldiers in the command. Technically, of course, chaplains are free to speak their mind. The facts of warfare, however, demand that a successful unit be morally unified - that every officer and man be convinced of the "righteousness" of the commander's decisions. A Satanic chaplain would almost certainly clash with this requirement sooner or later. The individual will is sacred to us; while we reject anarchy as impractical, we cannot officially sanction its opposite extreme.

(2) Chaplains of many separate faiths coexist in the Corps of Chaplains, sensing no inconsistency in this. The Church of Satan, on the other hand, was founded on the theory that theist religion is a social parasite and an insult to the human intellect. While we may respect the rights and opinions of theist officials on an individual basis, we will not dignify their cause by recognizing it as a philosophical equal to our own.

Consequently our guidance to Satanists in the American armed forces has been something like this:

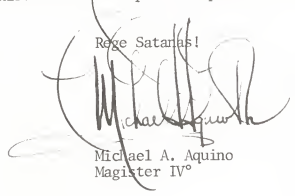
"As a citizen of the United States, you have a social obligation to serve in the military if called upon to do so. Insofar as your official responsibilities are concerned, your conscience must become that of your commander, and ultimately that of the President. Your Satanic interests and activities must be kept separate and distinct from those of the military. Where the two come in conflict, your responsibility as a soldier must take immediate priority - particularly since the safety of others besides yourself may be involved. If you cannot reconcile your personal philosophy with the mental discipline required of a soldier, then you should resign from the service as soon as you are legally able to do so.

"The Church of Satan will not endorse a request for conscientious objector status, inasmuch as we feel that all true philosophers object to war. To honor one person's arrogance over another's pragmatism would be inconsistent with the ethics upon which the Church was founded. As for draft evasion, we believe that a person who rejects the more distasteful responsibilities of his citizenship has no right to its benefits. A social contract must be mutually binding or it does not exist."

This is not a direct quote from a Church document. Consider it rather an example of what a Church official might say to a member asking him for advice. Over the past several years we have found such a position to serve both our best interests and those of the United States. Certainly it requires unusual mental discipline on the part of the Satanist who may disagree with existing military or political policies. Nevertheless we feel that those who are unable to master their own minds are not qualified to be Satanists to begin with.

Concerning the Judaic/Christian approach, we consider it to be flatly inconsistent with the commandment of their god: Thou shalt not kill. No amount of rationalization, we feel, can abrogate that simple sentence. In this context, the very existence of a Corps of Chaplains is a mockery of God.

Rege Satanas!



Michael A. Aquino
Magister IV°

Church of Satan

Post Office Box 142
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93102

March 13, VIII

Chaplain (Captain) Cecil D. Lewis
United States Army Chaplain School #C-22
Fort Hamilton, New York 11252

Dear Chaplain Lewis:

Thank you for your inquiry to the Allied Literary Company, which was forwarded to our Central Grotto in San Francisco. The High Priest has asked me to respond on his behalf.

You are welcome to quote from the Satanic Bible with this single provision: Before publication of your paper in any form, it must be sent to us for review. Our object is simply to insure that the statements taken from the Satanic Bible are not quoted out-of-context. We have no desire to censor any value judgements you may make; we wish only to ascertain that included factual data concerning our Church is accurate.

If this provision seems unduly prohibitive on our part, it is because the Church of Satan has suffered more than a few times at the hands of journalists, writers, and researchers. Too frequently we have been interpreted not on the basis of the abstract philosophy we espouse, but on the basis of the interviewer's personal fears, prejudice, and - quite possibly - suppressed desires!

You should also be aware of the fact that, while the Church has not sought representation in the Corps of Chaplains, many of our members and officials hold commissioned or enlisted positions in various branches of the United States armed forces.

For information concerning the Church in the New York City area, you may write to: Lilith Grotto, Church of Satan; Post Office Box #23; Spotswood, New Jersey 08884. Thank you again for your inquiry, and best wishes for the success of your research project.

Hail Satanas!

Michael A. Aquino
Magister IV°